



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

TWO DEARBORN RESIDENTS PLEAD GUILTY TO DOCUMENT AND VISA FRAUD

DETROIT — Two Dearborn, Mich., residents pleaded guilty today in Detroit federal court to document fraud and visa fraud, announced U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, Eastern District of Michigan; and Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Daher Sarhan Al-Mayahi, 37, of Dearborn Heights, Mich., and Ali Hawil, 34, of Dearborn, Mich., offered the guilty pleas before U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Tarnow.

The information presented to the court at the time of the guilty pleas showed that between November 10, 2003 and April 28, 2005, Daher Al-Mayahi, Ali Hawil and others, including employees of the Michigan Secretary of State, conspired to possess hundreds of false, counterfeit and fraudulently obtained passports, visas, birth certificates, and driver's licenses within the Detroit metropolitan area. They used themselves unlawfully in some instances, and in other instances transferred the documents unlawfully to others, including to illegal aliens already present within the United States. Al-Mayahi, a citizen of Iraq, and Hawil, a citizen of Guinea, also each possessed a counterfeit Guinean passport and a counterfeit U.S. Visa bearing their likeness but with a false name.

In announcing the guilty pleas, U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, commended the work of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducted a "diligent and thorough" investigation.

"This case underscores the seriousness with which my office and the Department of Homeland Security view the possession and issuance of fraudulent identity documents which can be used to facilitate the movement of illegal aliens, criminals and terrorists throughout our country," said U.S. Attorney Murphy.

“Homeland Security and ICE simply will not tolerate those who put our Nation’s security at risk by trafficking in fraudulent identity documents” stated Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. With this undercover operation we’ve stopped an international criminal organization that compromised our system for issuing immigration and identity documents through fraud and corruption, “I want to commend the excellent work by U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers in Louisville, Kentucky, for initially seizing foreign documents which led to ICE’s investigation. I also want to thank our partners on this case from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for their outstanding efforts. The U.S. Border Patrol in Detroit also provided important information supporting this case.”

Al-Mayahi and Hawil each face maximum penalties of 25 years imprisonment and \$500,000 in fines as a result of their convictions.

Hawil has already been ordered deported to Iraq after serving his sentence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth R. Chadwell prosecuted the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.